

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/568,482

Examiner

William H. Mayo III

Applicant(s)

FITZGERALD ET AL.

Art Unit

2831

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to April 30, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-13 and 16-27.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 5/29/07
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jennifer Mae Slonaker on May 29, 2007.
3. The application has been amended as follows: In claim 19, line 1, delete the numerical "4".

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-13 and 16-27 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: This invention deals with an arrangement comprising a support and an elastically deformable sleeve extending over the support, wherein the sleeve has an initiating part removably secured to one end of the support to hold the sleeve in a deformed state, wherein the initiating part is stretched to a greater extend than the remainder of the sleeve when the initiating part is secured to the one end of the support and locally relaxed in insulation from the remainder of the sleeve when the initiating part is initially unsecured from the one end of the support, wherein the sleeve is driven away from the one end of the support after the initiating part is locally relaxed by an impetus such that the sleeve covers an object and

Art Unit: 2831

the support is removable from the sleeve (claim 1). This invention also deals with a method of enclosing an object comprising placing a support having an elastically deformable sleeve extending there over the object; securing an initiating part of the sleeve to one end of the support to hold the sleeve in a deformed state, the initiating part being stretched to a greater extent than a remainder of the sleeve when the initiating part is secured to the one end of the support; unsecuring the initiating part from the one end of the support to locally relax the initiating part in isolation from the remainder of the sleeve; driving the sleeve away from the one end of the support after the initiating part is locally relaxed by an impetus to cover the object; and removing the support from the sleeve (claim 27). The above stated claimed limitations, in combination with other claim limitations, is not taught or suggested by the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed April 30, 2007 have been fully considered and they are persuasive. Specifically, the applicant argument that "Hansen nor any of the cited prior art teaches an arrangement comprising an initiating part as claimed in claims 1 & 27" is persuasive and therefore the claims have been allowed.


Art Unit: 2831

Communication

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William H. Mayo III whose telephone number is (571)-272-1978. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30am-6:00 pm (alternate Fridays off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean Reichard can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 31. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


William H. Mayo III
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2831

WHM III
May 28, 2007